

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

S E C R E T STATE 078337

LIMDIS

REF: BANGUI 462, BANGUI 451

FOLLOWING REPEAT KIGALI 188 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BUJUMBURA BEIRUT KINSHASA TRIPOLI BRUSSELS 24 MARCH.

QUOTE

S E C R E T KIGALI 188

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDAN RECOGNITION PLO

REF: KIGALI 187

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RWANDA RECOGNIZES PLO AS RESULT VISIT BY
LIBYAN PM JALLOUD. EMB SEEKS DELAY IMPLEMENTATION. ACTION
REQUESTED: SUMMARY LIST INSTANCES WHERE PLO HAS VIOLATED
ITS STATUS AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HOST STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, LIBYAN-RWANDAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOL-
LOWING MARCH 18-20 VISIT GOL PM JALLOUD EXPRESSED GOR RECOG-
NITION PLO IN FOLLOWING TERMS: BEGIN QUOTE ON ITS SIDE, THE
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GOR REAFFIRMED ITS TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINE LIBERATION

MOVEMENT (SIC) AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND GAVE ITS FULL AGREEMENT FOR THE OPENING OF AN OFFICIAL OFFICE OF THE ORGANIZATION IN KIGALI END QUOTE. AMB ACCORDINGLY RAISED MATTER SEPARATELY MARCH 21 WITH GOR FONMIN NSEKALIJE AND GOR SECURITY CHIEF LIZINDE.

3. FONMIN NSEKALIJE - WHEN SUBJECT RAISED, FONMIN REMARKED RUEFULLY "I WAS AFRAID THAT MIGHT BOTHER YOU". DURING CONVERSATION, I FOCUSED ON PRACTICAL PROBLEMS DECISION WOULD POSE FOR RWANDA IN TERMS OF ASSUMING SECURITY FOR RESIDENT EMBASSIES, THE PROSPECT OF PLO OPERATIONS CONDUCTED WITHIN FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING STATES, PAST PLO/FATAH VIOLATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY (DRAWING IN DETAIL MY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE KHARTOUM MURDERS), AND INCREASED POSSIBILITY KIGALI AIRPORT BEING INVOLVED IN HIJACKINGS. I ALSO NOTED THAT PLO -- DESPITE RABAT DECLARATION -- IS NOT IN FACT CONSIDERED REPRESENTATIVE ALL PALESTINIANS BY MANY ARABS AND A NUMBER OF ARAB STATES HARBOR WITH GOOD REASON DEEP HOSTILITY TO PLO (INCLUDING OTHER POTENTIAL RWANDAN DONORS SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA). FONMIN ADMITTED GOR DECISION HAD BEEN POLITICAL AND THAT GOR HAD NOT STAFFED OUT ALL IMPLICATIONS. HE IMPLIED PLO COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE HAD BEEN PRESENTED IN LIBYAN DRAFT AND THAT GOR HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT UNPREPARED ALTHOUGH FULLY AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, GOR COULD NOT REALISTICALLY REFUSE PLO RECOGNITION AS RWANDA WOULD THEN HAVE BEEN ISOLATED FROM THE TIER OF UGANDA, ZAIRE AND BURUNDI (HE SAID SIMILAR PLO ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED IN BUJUMBURA). HE ALLOWED THAT PLO OFFICE MIGHT POSE SOME SECURITY PROBLEMS BUT RWANDA'S BORDERS WERE SUFFICIENTLY POROUS THAT ANY SECURITY PROBLEMS COULD ARRIVE AS EASILY FROM KAMPALA OR BUJUMBURA. WHEN HE COMMENTED PLO WAS NOT "TERRORIST" ORGANIZATION, I NOTED RECENT TEL AVIV RAID, PLO ANNOUNCEMENT IT WOULD UNDERTAKE ACTS AGAINST "ZIONISM" IN WHATEVER GUISE OR WHEREVER FOUND AND OUTLINED PLO RELATION FATAH AND BLACK SEPTEMBER. IN RESPONSE MY QUERY, FONMIN STATED NO DATE YET ESTABLISHED FOR OPENING PLO OFFICE AND IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO BUILD AN "EMBASSY". I REGISTERED THE SUGGESTION SEVERAL TIMES THAT HAVING NOW TAKEN THE OVER POLITICAL STEP, THE GOR MIGHT FIND IT PRUDENT TO MAKE HASTE SLOWLY SECRET

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WITH IMPLEMENTATION. DRAWING INDIRECTLY ON MY EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF SECURITY (BELOW), I REFERRED ASSISTANCE WE HAD PROVIDED AND NOTED WRONGLY THAT US EMBASSY EXPECTED IT WOULD NOW BECOME A BENEFICIARY. FONMIN STATED GOR WOULD BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY DIPL MISSIONS IN RWANDA AND PREPARED COOPERATE FULLY WITH US EMBASSY.

4. GOR SECURITY CHIEF - I HAD EARLIER MADE SIMILAR

APPROACH TO CHIEF OF SECURITY BUT WITH MORE DETAILS ON PLO MODUS OPERANDI. HE ALSO NOTED GOR DECISION "POLITICAL" AND HOPED SITUATION WOULD NOT "DISTURB" GOR RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EMBASSIES. HE ASKED THAT I LET HIM KNOW IF THERE WAS GENERAL DIPL CONCERN. HE AGREED READILY TO MY SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. I ALSO NOTED ADVANTAGES DELAY AND HE STATED HE WOULD REVIEW THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS CLOSELY. HE ASSURED ME HIS FULL COMMITMENT TO SECURITY US EMBASSY (COMFORTING -- BUT BEYOND HIS RESOURCES).

5. COMMENT - MY BASIS EFFORT IS TO INDUCE GOR TO ASSESS PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE FROM PRESENCE PLO OFFICE AND TO SOW CONCERN THAT PLO COULD BE MORE BOTHER TO GOR THAN ITS WORTH AND THUS HOPEFULLY CAUSE IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DELAYED OR LAPSE. ABILITY GOR TAKE THAT TACK RESTS TO LARGE DEGREE ON AMOUNT PLO ENTHUSIASM TO ESTABLISH KIGALI OFFICE. ON FACE OF IT, GOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH PLO OFFICE WOULD APPEAR BE THE ITEM OF MAJOR POLITICAL BENEFIT TO PLO AND THAT ITS INTERESTS WOULD BE LITTLE SERVED PRACTICALLY BY ESTABLISHING AN ACTUAL PRESENCE. WE ARE UNINFORMED, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH EFFORT PLO IS DEVOTING TO OPENING RESIDENT OFFICES SOUTH OF THE SAHARA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BRIEF SUMMARY LIST OF INSTANCES (OTHER THAN KHARTOUM) IN WHICH PLO OFFICES AND/OR FATAH HAVE VIOLATED THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATUS BY ENGAGING IN TERRORIST/SUBVERSIVE ACTS AGAINST TARGETS IN OR OUTSIDE THEIR HOST STATE. FRITTS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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